Water Flow in Rivers

†1725. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water to the extent of 300 million gallons flows in the rivers without being utilized;

(b) the details in this regard; and

(c) to what extent Government have succeeded with the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process of evaporation and transpiration through vegetation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. Owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is assessed as 1122 BCM out of which 690 BCM is the surface water and 432 BCM is replenishable ground water. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to rivers and seas.

The water resources is presently being utilised for meeting the requirement for various purposes through development of surface as well as ground water. With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storage, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and better management practices etc.

Linking of Major Rivers

1726. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted by the Central Government for the efficient utilization of water resources of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the Group, the meetings held and the on-the-spot assessment visits made by the Group so far;

(c) whether any achievements were made by the Group in this regard to the efficient use of water resources so far;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e)whether the Group is also looking into the proposal of linking of major rivers of the country to utilize the excess water for deficient areas; and

(f) if so, the progress made, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the composition of the Inter-Ministry Task Group on Efficient Utilization of Water Resources is given in the Statement. (See below) The Group has held two meetings. No visits for on the spot assessment were made by the Group.

(c) and (d) The Group has suggested multi pronged action plan which calls for both supply side augmentation and demand side management. Some of the important action points recommended by the Group relates to: (i) completion of irrigation projects; (ii) modernization of irrigation systems; (iii) restoration of water bodies; (iv) development of ground water; (v) artificial recharge of ground water; (vi) on farm water management; and (vii) micro irrigation;

(e)No, Sir. The Group is not looking into the proposal of linking of major rivers of the country:

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Composition of an Inter-Ministry Task Group on Efficient Utilization of Water Resources

(i) Secretary, Planning Commission	Chairman
(ii) Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	Member
(iii) Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	Member
(iv) Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research & Education	Member
(v) Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure)	Member
(vi) Secretary, Department of Science & Technology	Member
(vii) Sectoral Officer-in-Charge, Prime Minister's Office	Member
(viii) Adviser (WR), Planning Commission	Convenor